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AB

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Paul H. Burmeister, Charles L. Euteneuer,
Brian J. Brown, Paul J. Fordenbacher,
Anthony C. Vrba

Appln No: 08/737,492

Filing Date: November 18, 1996

For: IMPROVED TISSUE SUPPORTING
DEVICES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-6252

AMENDMENT

In response to the Official Action mailed May 4, 1998, please amend the above-titled application as follows:

In The Abstract:

At the end of line 8, please add the following sentences:

B1 -- These tissue supporting devices are generally cylindrical or tubular. They have at least one component which is deformable, by an external force, to maintain further expansion. --

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add claims 21-27 as follows:

B2 1. (new) A stent for placement in a body tube, the stent comprising a flexible support structure, the support structure comprising at least two groups of wires meshed together, wherein the at least two groups of wires are of a material having shape memory, and wherein the shape memory of the material of one group of wires is different from the shape memory of another group of wires.

22. (new) The stent according to claim 21, wherein the wires are of a shape memory alloy having a defined transition temperature and hysteresis behavior.

23. (new) The stent according to claim 22, wherein the wires are of nitinol.